

# TOLL'S GOAL KEEPS THEM IN THE HUNT

**STRIKER** Gary Toll rewarded Mike Keen's unswerving confidence in him by scoring the only goal of the game as Wycombe kept up their challenge for the Berger Isthmian League Premier Division championship on Saturday.

Toll, who in many quarters is thought lucky to hold his place, struck ten minutes after half-time to clinch a victory against defensive minded Harlow Town at Loakes Park.

With only two league goals to his credit this season before Saturday, Toll needed to score to answer his many critics and there was a special cheer — I'm not sure it was ironic — when his name announced over the tannoy after he had scored.

## Powerful

It was a well-constructed goal with Steve Long flicking the ball on to Bob Dell inside the penalty area. Dell then slipped inside one defender before squaring the ball into the path of Toll who struck home inside the left post from 10 yards.

Until the goal, the match had been distinctly unmemorable. A semi-frozen ground made turning and quick ball control difficult in the first half. This suited Harlow fine but Wycombe were becoming increasingly frustrated at their failure to create chances.

Their best effort came just before half-time when a powerful volley by Howard Kennedy brought a fine diving save by Paul Kitson. At the other end his opposite number Gary Lester was kept on his toes by the Wycombe defence which started the match shakily.

But Toll's goal forced Harlow to come out of their shell. This allied to the easing conditions, made for an entertaining last half hour, in

By **MICHAEL KNOX** Wycombe 1, Harlow 0

which the visitors could well have snatched a draw.

Wycombe actually created a chance from a corner in the second half, when Paul Birdseye making more regular appearances inside the opposition penalty area, headed just over from Dell's inswinging kick. But too many of Blues' corners were misdirected.

## Dismay

With Terry Glynn completely out of sorts, a greater burden fell on the players around him to score. Jimmy Jacobs ballooned over one chance while Toll could have settled the result beyond doubt, when intercepting a wayward backpass, but Kitson came of his line to save the day.

Thus reprieved from going two goals behind, Harlow fought back determinedly and only the hard ground robbed them of the equaliser eight minutes from the end.

Micky Mann, the dead ball specialist, floated a free-kick

over to the far post where Bobby Harding headed firmly downwards from about five yards out. But to his dismay and astonishment, the ball bounced over the bar.

Thereafter, with some fortune, Wycombe held out for their deserved victory, their jubilation afterwards being only dimmed by the news

that main challengers — Slough and Enfield — also won.

**WYCOMBE:** G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, K. Mead, R. Dell, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, G. Toll, J. Jacobs. Sub: K. Wilson (not used).

**HARLOW:** P. Kitson; S. Wilson, O. Griffiths, P. Carretta, A. Carrington, A. Gough, M. Taylor, M. Mann, P. Eustace (sub: G. Walters 64 mins), J. Mackenzie, R. Harding.

**Referee:** T. Maher (Ruislip).

**Half-time** 0-0. **Scorer** — Wycombe: Toll (55 mins).

**Attendance:** 756.

## BERGER ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	30	18	9	3	51	24	63
Enfield	32	17	8	7	62	38	59
<b>Wycombe</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>59</b>
Harlow	32	15	8	9	50	34	53
Sutton	31	14	10	7	57	43	52
Dagenham	33	13	9	11	62	54	48
Bromley	32	13	8	11	51	50	47
Leytonstone	29	12	8	9	51	42	44
Haves	31	13	5	13	30	37	44
Dulwich	32	11	10	11	49	49	43
*Barking	36	11	11	14	49	59	42
Staines	32	11	8	13	42	44	41
Tooting	34	11	5	18	36	44	38
Hendon	31	10	7	14	43	49	37
Carshalton	30	11	4	15	41	57	37
Harlow	30	8	11	11	35	43	35
Boreham Wd	30	9	8	13	38	49	35
Walthamstow	29	10	4	15	31	35	34
Woking	33	10	4	19	34	55	34
Croydon	29	6	15	8	26	27	33
Leatherhead	33	7	12	14	23	39	33
Hitchin	26	7	8	11	34	35	29

\* 2 points deducted.



**GARY TOLL**

... answered critics